

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 CG-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00
DLOS-09 OES-07 OIC-02 IOE-00 ERDA-05 AID-05
CEA-01 EPG-02 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INT-05 L-03
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /127 W

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P 011015Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3827

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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LONDON FOR SHIPPING ATTACHE

PARIS FOR TRANSPORTATION COUNSELOR

SECSTATE PASS TO TRANSPORTATION AND COAST GUARD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, IMCO, FR

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION;

DELEGATION VISIT TO PARIS

REF: PARIS 15417

1. SUMMARY. U.S. DEL MET MAY 31 WITH REPS FRENCH MERCHANT MARINE
SECRETARIAT ACCORDING TO PLAN. DISCUSSIONS HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE.
WHILE REGISTERING SOME CONCERNS, FRENCH WERE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF
MAIN THRUSTS AND TIME TABLE OF U.S. INITIATIVES. ATTITUDE WAS
CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE. THEY APPRECIATE CONSULTATIONS AND INTEND
TO WORK WITH U.S. TO ACHIEVE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO TANKER

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PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. DELEGATION FOLLOWED SCHEDULE SUBSTANTIALLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH
THAT PROPOSED REFTTEL. MORE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF U.S. INITIATIVE
DISCUSSED IN MEETING 1030 TO 1215 WITH ATTENDEES: FRANCE,
ROCHMONT, DUCLAUX, GUERIN, CARC, BUFFANDEAU; U.S. WALLACE,
DIAMANTI, LAKEY. CONTINUED ON BROADER ASPECTS WITH SECGEN

MARINE MARCHAND CHAPON UNTIL 1300. LUNCHEON HOSTED BY U.S. INCLUDED ALL ABOVE EXCEPT CHAPON AND GUERIN, UNABLE ATTEND DUE CONFLICTING ENGAGEMENTS.

3. U.S. PRESENTATION ENCOMPASSED REVIEW OF U.S. PROPOSALS, WORK AT IMCO ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE, COAST GUARD NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING PUBLISHED MAY 16, ACTION BY U.S. SENATE IN RESPECT OF S.682, WORK PROGRAM AND CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, AND POSSIBILITIES FOR INSTRUMENTS TO BE ELABORATED BY CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 1978

FRENCH WERE CORDIAL, ATTENTIVE, AND CANDID. VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED FREELY AND SINCERE FEELINGS OF COOPERATION AND COMMON PURPOSE WERE EVIDENT. WHILE ROCHMONT NOMINAL FRENCH CHAIRMAN, DUCLAUX TOOK LEAD FOR FRENCH SIDE IN OFFERING COMMENTS, ASKING QUESTIONS, AND SUGGESTING COURSES OF ACTION. ALL PRESENT TOOK PART IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH PROCEEDED RAPIDLY BECAUSE FRENCH, WITHOUT REQUEST, CONVERSED EXCLUSIVELY IN ENGLISH.

4. FOLLOWING ARE KEY POINTS MADE BY FRENCH SIDE IN TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS.

(A) FRENCH AGREE THAT HIGHER STANDARDS FOR TANKER CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE ADOPTED BUT STRESS THAT SUCH STANDARDS MUST BE COUPLED WITH TIGHT AND EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REGIME WHICH ADDRESSES BOTH INSPECTION AND CREW STANDARDS. ENFORCEMENT BY EUROPEAN PORT STATES MUST BE UNIFORMLY STRICT TO PRECLUDE SHIP OPERATORS FROM SHIFTING BUSINESS FROM PORT IN STRICT STATE TO PORT OF STATE WITH MORE RELAXED ATTITUDE. INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET CONSISTENTLY ON WORLDWIDE BASIS IF REGIME TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE.
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(B) SUBSTANDARD SHIPS SHOULD BE TARGET OF CONCENTRATED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO BE PAID TO SHIPS SAILING UNDER FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE.

(C) HIGH QUALITY OF ECONOMIC ANALYSES OF U.S. INITIATIVES IS ESSENTIAL. ECONOMIC DATA MADE AVAILABLE BY U.S. THUS FAR SEEMS INCOMPLETE AND UNCONVINCING, DUCLAUX INTENDS TO PURSUE ISSUE OF ECONOMIC IMPACT IN FUTURE IMCO SESSIONS.

(D) FRENCH PREPARED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH U.S. THEY STRESSED THAT CANDID AND CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INFORMAL BASIS IN MOST WELCOME. THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH COMPRESSED WORK PROGRAM AND CONFERENCE SCHEDULE.

(E) WITHOUT PROMPTING, FRENCH SAID THEY COULD ACCEPT CONCEPT OF SEGREGATED BALLAST LOCATED AS PROTECTIVE SPACE PROVIDED REQUIREMENTS WERE NOT RIGOROUSLY SPECIFIC.

(F) FRENCH ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PRESERVING COMPETITIVE POSTURE DURING PHASE IN PERIOD OF PROPOSED HIGHER STANDARDS. THEY POSED QUESTIONS SUCH AS "HOW COULD SWEDISH CLEAN BALLAST CONCEPT BE ENFORCED?" AND "WHAT IS INCENTIVE FOR SHIP OPERATOR TO IMPLEMENT HIGHER STANDARDS WHEN THEY MEAN HIGHER COSTS OR LESS

CARGO CAPACITY OR BOTH?"

5. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH SECGEN, CHAPON MADE SEVERAL POINTS CORDIALLY BUT EMPHATICALLY.

(A) ACTION BY SENATE ON S.682 IS UNSETTLING. EVEN AFTER HEARING EXPLANATION ABOUT EQUIVALENTS AND MODIFICATIONS CLAUSES, CHAPON EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT CROSS PURPOSES BETWEEN U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS. FYI. THIS HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF PROTRACTED CONVERSATIONS DURING TECHNICAL SESSION. OBVIOUSLY FRENCH FOLLOW S.682 DEVELOPMENTS WITH SOME ALARM AND WORRY ABOUT ABILITY OF ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE BINDING COMMITMENTS UNDER PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES WITH SO MANY UNCERTAINTIES RAISED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS. END FYI.

(B) THERE IS CONSENSUS IN FRENCH PUBLIC THAT URGENT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AMELIORATE OCEAN POLLUTION PROBLEM.

(C) THE AGREED WORK PROGRAM AND CONFERENCE SCHEDULE IS NOT AT ALL UNREASONABLE. HE SAID "WE MUST STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOT.".

6. COMMENT. VIEWS OF FRENCH WERE SUBSTANTIVE AND SURPRISINGLY SUPPORTIVE. THEY ARE READY AND WILLING TO THROW THEIR WIEGHT BEHIND U.S. INITIATIVES, GIVEN REASONABLE CHANCE OF DEVELOPING PROPER MIX OF STANDARDS. THEY SEEK PACKAGE DEAL WITH EMPHASIS ON ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES. REPEATED REFERENCES WERE MADE TO NEED TO PRESERVE CONDITIONS WHICH PROMOTJ FAIR COMPETITION. SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR PAPERS NOW UNDER PREPARATION FOR SUBMISSION TO IMCO WILL BE FORWARDED TO COAST GUARD BY SEPTEL. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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